

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of enriching procaryotic DNA, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- a) contacting at least one procaryotic DNA in solution with at least one protein or polypeptide which is capable of specifically binding to the procaryotic DNA, thus forming a protein or polypeptide DNA complex, and
- b) ~~separating~~ isolating or enriching said complex.

2. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as of claim~~ as of claim ~~[[ed]] in Claim 1~~, wherein the isolating or enriching ~~separation~~ is followed by a step of separating the DNA and the protein or polypeptide.

3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of claim 1 as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims~~, wherein the protein ~~of~~ or the polypeptide is coupled to a carrier.

4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as of claim~~ as of claim ~~[[ed]] in claim 3~~, wherein the protein or the polypeptide is coupled directly to said carrier.

5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as of claim~~ as of claim ~~[[ed]] in claim 3~~, wherein the protein or the polypeptide is coupled to the carrier via an antibody directed against the protein or the polypeptide ~~it~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in any one of claim~~ as claimed in any one of claim ~~Claims 3 to 5~~, wherein the carrier is provided as a matrix, as microparticles or as a membrane.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of as ~~claimed in any one of Claims 1 or 2~~, wherein isolating or enriching ~~separation~~ is effected by means of an antibody or antiserum directed against the protein or polypeptide.
8. (Currently Amended) The method as of claim[[ed]] ~~in claim 1~~, wherein the isolating or enriching ~~separation~~ is effected by means of electrophoresis.
9. (Currently Amended) The method as of claim[[ed]] 1 ~~in any one of the preceding Claims~~, wherein the protein or the polypeptide is an antibody or antiserum directed against non-methylated CpG motifs ~~or is a corresponding antiserum~~.
10. (Currently Amended) The method as of claim[[ed]] ~~in any one of Claims 1 to 8~~, wherein the protein or polypeptide is encoded by the TLR9 gene or by the CGBP gene.
11. (Currently Amended) The method as of claim[[s]] ~~in Claim 10~~, wherein the protein or polypeptide is encoded by a cDNA with a sequence having a homology of at least 80%, ~~preferably at least 90%, to SEQ. ID NO. 2 the sequence according to gene bank access no. XM-165661.~~
12. (Currently Amended) The method as of claim[[s]] ~~in Claim 10~~, wherein the protein or polypeptide is encoded by a cDNA with a sequence having a homology of at least 80%, ~~preferably at least 90%, to SEQ. ID NO. 3 the sequence according to gene bank access no. AB045180 or a fragment thereof, preferably or cDNA having a homology of at least 80%, particularly preferably at least 90%, to SEQ. ID NO. 4 transcript variant A (gene bank access no. NM-138688) or a homology of at least 80% to, transcript variant B (gene bank access no. NM-017442) SEQ. ID NO. 5.~~
13. (Currently Amended) The method as of ~~claimed in Claim 1~~, wherein the solution contains ~~a mixture of~~ eukaryotic and procaryotic DNA.
14. (Currently Amended) The method as of ~~claimed in Claim 13~~, wherein the solution is a body fluid.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of purifying body fluids from procaryotic DNA as ~~elaimed in Claim 14,~~ comprising

a) contacting at least one procaryotic DNA from a body fluid with at least one protein or polypeptide which is capable of specifically binding to the procaryotic DNA, thus forming a protein or polypeptide DNA complex, and

b) separating said complex ~~wherein separation is effected~~ extracorporally under sterile conditions.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting procaryotic DNA ~~as claims in any one of Claims 1 to 14,~~ comprising

a) contacting at least one procaryotic DNA from a body fluid with at least one protein or polypeptide which is capable of specifically binding to the procaryotic DNA, thus forming a protein or polypeptide DNA complex,

b) separating said complex, and

c) wherein a step of amplifying the procaryotic DNA follows.

17. (Currently Amended) A kit for detecting or enriching procaryotic DNA ~~by means of a method as claims in any one of Claims 1 to 14~~ comprising at least one protein or polypeptide which is capable of specifically binding to the procaryotic DNA.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The A-test kit of claim 17 for detecting procaryotic DNA by means of a method as claims in Claim 16 ,~~ further comprising one or more sets of specific PCR primers.

19. (New) The kit of claim 18 further comprising a carrier that is coupled to the at least one protein or polypeptide.

20. (New) The kit of claim 19, wherein the protein or the polypeptide is an antibody or antiserum directed against non-methylated CpG motifs.